

5. (Once Amended) The circulator of Claim 1, wherein the metal housing includes a cover and a base portion and the circulator further comprises a second pole piece disposed between the base portion of the housing and the conductor elements, and a cover return component disposed between the housing cover and the permanent magnet.

9. (Once Amended) A method of manufacturing a radio frequency/microwave junction-type circulator, comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of junctions connected in cascade and configured to form a plurality of transmission paths between a plurality of signal ports, each junction including a conductor element patterned to correspond to at least a portion of the plurality of transmission paths;

providing a ferrite component configured to overlay the plurality of junctions;

providing a permanent magnet arranged in relation to the ferrite component so as to generate a magnetic field in the ferrite component, thereby causing non-reciprocal operation of the transmission paths between the plurality of signal ports; and

providing a first pole piece disposed between the permanent magnet and the ferrite component.

11. (Once Amended) The method of Claim 10 further including the steps of providing a second pole piece disposed between a base portion of the metal housing and the conductor elements, and providing a cover return component disposed between a cover of the metal housing and the permanent magnet.

Remarks

The Office Action mailed February 24, 2003 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-12 are now pending in this application of which claims 1, 5, 9 and 11 have been amended.